



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 2, 2011

S. 1280

Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on July 26, 2011

S. 1280 would impose several new requirements on the Peace Corps, including:

- Training volunteers on how to reduce the risk of sexual assault and what they should do in the event of an assault,
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive sexual assault policy,
- Establishing an Office of Victims Advocacy,
- Designating sexual assault liaisons for each country and training them to respond appropriately to reports of sexual assault, and
- Establishing a Sexual Assault Advisory Council.

The Peace Corps has indicated that it already complies or is in the process of complying with most of the requirements under the bill. Based on information from the agency, CBO estimates that implementing the remaining requirements would cost \$1 million a year and total \$5 million over the 2012-2016 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The Peace Corps already has a Victims Advocate, but establishing an office staffed to provide timely and comprehensive services to volunteers would require additional staff. Based on information from the Peace Corp, CBO estimates that the agency would hire two additional people at an annual cost of less than \$500,000. To comply with the requirement for trained sexual assault liaisons at each of the agency's 76 posts, the Peace Corps plans to designate existing staff as liaisons. Based on information from the agency, CBO estimates that initial and refresher training for those liaisons would cost less than \$500,000 each year.

Finally, the bill would require the Peace Corps, the Peace Corps Inspector General, and the Government Accountability Office to provide several reports to the Congress. CBO estimates that the cost of implementing those requirements would be less than \$500,000 each year over the 2012-2016 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

S. 1280 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.